(e) BIFR has considered the DRSs in the hearings held in Feb. 2002 and is expected to finalise the Schemes soon.

**Increasing silk production and expansion of mulberry plantation**

748. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under active consideration of the Union Government to increase silk production and expansion of mulberry plantation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether State Governments have submitted the proposals for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto and the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. A target of 26,450 MT raw silk production is envisaged during the X Plan period as against the target of 18,395 MT raw silk production during the IX Plan period. This includes mulberry raw silk production of 24,150 MT.

(c) and (d) The State Government are sending proposals to the Central Silk Board for financial assistance under the Catalytic Development Schemes being implemented by the Central Silk Board in collaboration with the State Governments.

**Study on the status of the handloom industry**

749. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission had commissioned a study on the status of the handloom industry in the country with special reference to the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details and recommendations of the study;

(c) the Ministry's response to the study; and